

FIRST REPORT

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON HOSPITALS
FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

1907.

[Also the 4th - 10th reports of the Trustees of
Massachusetts hospitals for consumptives]



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309 FORD BUILDING, 15 ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE COMMISSION ON HOSPITALS FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

To His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth and to the Honorable Council.

In accordance with chapter 474 of the Acts of 1907, entitled "An Act to provide for establishing three sanatoriums for tubercular patients," His Excellency Governor Guild appointed Dr. Arthur T. Cabot, Charles H. Adams, Alvah Crocker, Dr. Albert C. Getchell, W. C. Godfrey, Mrs. Sylvia B. Knowlton, Dr. William D. McFee, Charles H. Porter and Jeremiah Smith, Jr., as a commission to build three sanatoriums for consumptives, one in the Connecticut valley, one in the northeastern part of the State and one in the southeastern part of the State. In addition to this, the commission was given the power to disseminate information throughout the State in regard to tuberculosis, and to establish dispensaries and out-patient departments as was thought best.

The first meeting of the commission was held Sept. 2, 1907. Dr. Arthur T. Cabot of Boston was elected chairman, and Dr. John B. Hawes of Boston was made secretary.

In view of the permanent character of this Board and the wide scope of its work, it was thought best to provide working quarters for the commission where information could be accumulated and put in accessible form, and in which the business of the undertaking could be conducted and recorded in orderly manner. Accordingly, an office was secured in the Ford building, 15 Ashburton Place, and suitable provisions made for carrying on the present work of the commission.

At a regular meeting of the Board, held October 15, it was voted that the official name of this commission be the Massachusetts Commission on Hospitals for Consumptives.

Small sub-committees were appointed to investigate sites for the three hospitals named in the act. It was decided that the plans of the hospital in the northeastern part of the State should first be taken up.

In view of the fact that the superintendent of such a hospital should be acquainted with all the details of his work from the very beginning, it was voted to select a suitable man as superintendent of this northeastern hospital at once, stating that his term of office will commence probably in the summer of 1908, but that he will be expected to keep in close touch with the building of the hospital, of which he is to be in charge, from the very beginning. The Board elected Dr. E. B. Emerson, at present assistant superintendent of the State Hospital at Tewksbury, who was highly recommended, and who has had long and thorough training in institutional work. Dr. Emerson has accepted this position. The salary agreed upon is \$2,500 per annum, to begin when he takes actual charge of the work.

The sub-committee in charge of the northeastern hospital, consisting of Dr. Arthur T. Cabot and Mr. Alvah Crocker of Fitchburg, were requested to make a search for a suitable site for this hospital in that part of the State convenient to the cities of Lowell, Lawrence, Salem, Haverhill, Lynn, etc.

The qualifications of a site for an institution for cases of advanced or moderately advanced tuberculosis were considered by the Board. A moderate elevation of one hundred to three hundred feet, dry soil, a southerly exposure, and a certain amount of pine grove and shelter trees for protection were declared to be desirable. A tract of land comprising at least one hundred and fifty acres was thought necessary. Ease of access to the larger cities and towns in the region from which such a hospital would draw its patients was a prime qualification. Proper water supply and means of making a sewerage system in an efficient and economical way were important.

Various sites were inspected in the region near Wilmington, Andover, Haverhill and Georgetown. At the regular meet-

ing of the commission, held November 19, the sub-committee on the sites for this northeastern hospital handed in its report. Dr. Emerson also gave a detailed description of the various sites.

A certain piece of land near Georgetown, Mass., known as the "Little Farm," was finally chosen as the best suited for the hospital. Power was given to the chairman to obtain an option on the land. After the option was obtained the members of the Board personally inspected the property, and voted to purchase it.

This property consists of a large farm of one hundred and eighty-six acres, situated on a beautiful hill, from which a magnificent view is obtained in all directions. A pine grove, a large apple orchard of young trees and an oak grove add to its attractions. There are two large houses on the property, in excellent condition, and an old barn. Much of the land is under cultivation, and the entire property has been well kept up as a farm. The top of the hill is about half a mile from the railroad. The elevation is over two hundred feet. An engineer has inspected this land, and is of the opinion that a water supply can be obtained near by. John A. Fox, the architect selected to make plans for this hospital, has been very favorably impressed by the site. Georgetown is within an hour's journey of Boston, and within easy reach of Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, Newburyport, Salem and Lynn.

The sub-committees on sites for hospitals in the Connecticut valley and the southeastern part of the State are investigating those regions.

It was also ordered in the act (chapter 474, section 9) that this Board "may disseminate information as to the best methods of combating the disease."

Taking up this part of its duties, the Board has arranged a plan for frequent short articles in the newspapers of the Commonwealth. One bulletin has already been sent to one hundred and ninety-five newspapers and periodicals throughout the State, and the editors have shown a very general desire to co-operate with the commission in this effort. Other articles dealing with various phases of the tuberculosis question will follow at suitable intervals.

It is the opinion of the commission that the present appropriation will be insufficient to complete the construction and furnishing of the hospitals called for. It is to be remembered that each hospital is to be provided not only with accommodation for one hundred and fifty patients, but must also provide for the accommodation of the superintendent and his family, of his assistants, and of nurses and other help needed in the carrying on of the work, and must also include buildings for heating and supplying power. A proper water supply and sewerage system are of the greatest importance; this will be a source of considerable expense.

It is hoped that before the Legislature is ready to take up a consideration of this report the commission will be able to supply more accurate data in regard to the probable expense of the undertaking.

The commission would respectfully suggest that, as it may become absolutely necessary to acquire certain tracts of land for a water supply or for other purposes, this Board be given power to take such land as it may deem necessary by right of eminent domain.

Disbursements to Nov. 30, 1907, are as follows:—

Salary of secretary (at \$1,500 per year),	\$250 00
Salary of stenographer (at \$850 per year),	141 66
Rent of office (at \$725 per year),	151 05
Running expenses, etc.,	622 58
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	\$1,165 29

Respectfully submitted,

ARTHUR T. CABOT.

BOSTON, MASS., Nov. 30, 1907.